

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03228 092005Z

73

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W

----- 082859

R 091905Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1125

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 3228

DEPT FOR A/SY, A/SY/FO (DALTON) PASS TO CO MSG BN: PANAMA  
FOR RSS AND CO AND COMPANY D MSG BN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: REQUEST TRANSFER, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, SGT. ROY  
JOHNSON III

REF: TELEPHONE CONV BETWEEN RSO BECKETT AND RSS ARMOUR  
MAY 2, 1975

1. SGT. JOHNSON WAS ASSIGNED TO THE MSG DETACHMENT BA ON  
MAR 26, 1975. JOHNSON HAS BEEN WELL ACCEPTED BY MEMBERS OF  
THE EMBASSY STAFF AND HAS ATTENDED VARIOUS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS  
OF THE EMBASSY TO INCLUDE RECEPTIONS HELD AT THE RESIDENCE.  
HE HAS BEEN WELL ACCEPTED BY THE MSG DETACHMENT AND DURING HIS  
SHORT PERIOD OF ASSIGNMENT HAS PERFORMED ALL OF HIS DUTIES  
IN A HIGHLY COMMENDABLE MANNER. JOHNSON HAS BROUGHT TO THE  
ATTENTION OF THE PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED NCOIC AND THE ACTING NCOIC  
AND THE RSO VARIOUS INCIDENTS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON  
THE PART OF THE ARGENTINE CITIZEN WHICH HAVE BEEN DIRECTED  
TOWARD HIM DURING THE OFF DUTY HOURS. IT IS THE FEELING OF  
THOSE WITH WHOM JOHNSON HAS COME INTO CONTACT AS WELL AS OTHER  
MEMBERS OF THE MSG DETACHMENT THAT THE DISCRIMINATORY  
ACTS TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN SUBJECTED HAVE NOT BEEN IN ANY  
WAY THE RESULT OF HIS ACTIONS. THESE ACTS HAVE TAKEN THE  
FORM OF BEING PUBLICLY CURSED, INTENTIONALLY PHYSICALLY  
PUSHED AND JOSTLED IN SUBWAYS AND TRAINS, INTENTIONALLY  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03228 092005Z

SHORT CHANGED IN RESTAURANTS AND STORES WITH THE REFUSAL

ON THE PART OF THE LOCAL TO RECOGNIZE THE SHORTAGE OF RETURNING CHANGE. ON ONE OCCASION, SGT. JOHNSON WHILE IN THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF ANOTHER MSG WAS STOPPED BY POLICE AND IDENTIFICATION WAS REQUESTED. THE OTHER MARINE WAS DIRECTED TO GO ABOUT HIS BUSINESS AFTER PRODUCING HIS IDENTIFICATION. JOHNSON REMAINED IN THE CUSTODY OF THE POLICE, MONEY AND HIS WATCH WERE TAKEN FROM HIM. THIS INCIDENT WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF FEDERAL POLICE AUTHORITIES WHO WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF JOHNSON AND THE OTHER MARINE ATTEMPTED TO IDENTIFY THE POLICE. IDENTIFICATION COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED. THESE INCIDENTS OF DISCRIMINATORY ACTS ON THE PART OF THE ARGENTINES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE RSO WITH JOHNSON AND WITH THE AMBASSADOR. IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE AMBASSADOR THAT JOHNSON BE TRANSFERRED WITHOUT CAUSE IN HIS BEST INTEREST, THE INTEREST OF THE POST AND THE INTEREST OF THE MSG PROGRAM. IN THE TENSE TERRORIST ATMOSPHERE THAT EXISTS IN ARGENTINA A SERIOUS INCIDENT COULD RESULT AS THE PRODUCT OF THE ACTIONS OF THE ARGENTINES. IT IS ALSO FELT THAT IT IS NOT FAIR TO SGT. JOHNSON TO ASK HIM TO BE THE CONTINUED RECIPIENT OF UNWARRANTED ABUSE AGAINST HIS PERSONAL DIGNITY.

2. ATTENTION IS INVITED TO THE FACT IN MAY 1974 MSG CORP. AUGUSTINE JONES ALSO REQUESTED TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM ARGENTINA FOR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO WHICH HE WAS SUBJECTED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE POPULATION. BOTH JOHNSON AND JONES THOUGH WELL ACCEPTED IN THE EMBASSY HAVE ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTY DURING OFF DUTY PERIODS WHEN PERFORMING ROUTINE TASKS OF SHOPPING, EATING, AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES.

3. IT IS REQUESTED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO JOHNSON'S IMMEDIATE TRANSFER AND THAT A REPLACEMENT BE SUPPLIED COINCIDING WITH HIS MOVE. IN ADDITION, IT IS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE VARIOUS INCIDENTS SURROUNDING THE TREATMENT OF BOTH JOHNSON AND JONES BE REVIEWED AND THAT PRUDENCE BE EXERCISED IN THE FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS OF BLACKS TO ARGENTINA, IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE MEMBERS OF THE MARINE CORP FROM BEING SUBJECTED TO DISCRIMINATION BY HOST COUNTRY PERSONNEL.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: IT NEED BE POINTED OUT AND CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT WHATEVER DISCRIMINATION OR HOSTILITY IS SHOWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUENOS 03228 092005Z

TOWARDS BLACKS IN ARGENTINA DOES NOT STEM FROM ANY GOVERNMENT ACTION OR OFFICIAL ENCOURAGEMENT. THERE IS NO BLACK ELEMENT IN THE MAKE-UP OF THE ARGENTINE POPULATION, AND ANY BLACK WHO IS TEMPORARILY IN THIS COUNTRY DRAWS UPON HIMSELF A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION BECAUSE HE IS DIFFERENT. THIS ATTENTION CAN RANGE FROM OBVIOUS CURIOSITY AND STARING TO REMARKS WHICH CONSTITUTE RUDENESS AND MOLESTATION. THE EMBASSY IS CERTAIN THAT IF THE ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION ENCOUNTERED BY BLACK

AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WE WOULD RECEIVE PERSONAL EXPRESSIONS  
OF REGRET TOGETHER WITH DISCLAIMERS OF ANY OFFICIAL RESPONSI-  
BILITY FOR THE BIASES AND PREJUDICES OF INDIVIDUAL ARGENTINE  
PRIVATE CITIZENS.

HILL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BUENOS03228  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750164-0312  
**From:** BUENOS AIRES  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750563/aaaacfhq.tel  
**Line Count:** 121  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SY  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST TRANSFER, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, SGT. ROY JOHNSON III  
**TAGS:** ASEC  
**To:** STATE PANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006